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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 to require abortion service providers to notify the national human trafficking hotline of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BUDD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 to require abortion service providers to notify the national human trafficking hotline of victims of trafficking, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stopping Traffickers
5 and Their Accomplices Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Slavery and involuntary servitude are in-
2 compatible with American society and law.

3 (2) The 13th Amendment to the United States
4 Constitution abolished legal slavery and involuntary
5 servitude in the United States.

6 (3) Despite slavery being abolished in 1865,
7 modern forms of slavery still exist throughout the
8 United States.

9 (4) Every year, hundreds of thousands of Amer-
10 icans and immigrants are coerced into commercial
11 sex acts against their will.

12 (5) In addition to sexual exploitation, victims of
13 trafficking suffer repeated physical, mental, and
14 emotional abuse at the hands of their traffickers.

15 (6) Abortion providers and facilities aid sex
16 traffickers by turning a blind eye to the plight of
17 abused women.

18 (7) The Department of State's 2017 Traf-
19 ficking in Persons Report indicated that sex traf-
20 fickers coerce women into receiving abortions against
21 their will.

22 (8) Research conducted by Laura J. Lederer
23 and Christopher A. Wetzel, entitled "The Health
24 Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implica-
25 tions for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facili-

1 ties” published in the Annals of Health Law Jour-
2 nal, indicated that 71 percent of women coerced into
3 commercial sex acts reported at least one pregnancy
4 and 21 percent reported five or more pregnancies
5 while trafficked (23 Annals Health L. 61 (2014)).

6 (9) Lederer and Wetzel’s research found that
7 almost a third of women trafficked reported under-
8 went numerous abortions as victims of trafficking.
9 More than half of respondents answered that their
10 abortion while a victim of sex trafficking was a re-
11 sult of coercion. One victim of sex trafficking re-
12 counted, “[in most of my six abortions,] I was under
13 serious pressure from my pimps to abort the ba-
14 bies”.

15 (10) A moral obligation exists to report sus-
16 pected instances of sex trafficking to authorities.

17 (11) Section 2 of the 13th Amendment empow-
18 ers Congress to enact appropriate legislation to com-
19 bat all forms of slavery and involuntary servitude,
20 including forced sex trafficking.

21 **SEC. 3. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

22 Section 114 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking
23 Act of 2015 (34 U.S.C. 20709) is amended by adding at
24 the end the following:

1 “(g) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE NO-
2 TIFICATION BY ABORTION SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

3 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—

4 “(A) NOTIFICATION TO NATIONAL HUMAN
5 TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Not later than 24
6 hours after consulting with a patient, an abor-
7 tion service provider shall notify the national
8 human trafficking hotline if the provider has a
9 reasonable suspicion that the patient is a victim
10 of trafficking.

11 “(B) REPORT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL
12 AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Not later
13 than 24 hours after an abortion service provider
14 notifies the national human trafficking hotline
15 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of
16 Health and Human Services shall notify the At-
17 torney General of such notification by the abor-
18 tion service provider. Not later than 24 hours
19 after receipt of a notification from the Sec-
20 retary of Health and Human Services under
21 this subparagraph, the Attorney General shall
22 notify the appropriate State and local law en-
23 forcement agencies.

24 “(C) PENALTY.—An abortion service pro-
25 vider who violates subparagraph (A) shall be

1 fined \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 6
2 months, or both.

3 “(2) TRAINING.—

4 “(A) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of
5 Health and Human Services shall make avail-
6 able to abortion service providers the training
7 entitled ‘Foundational (101) Human Traf-
8 ficking Trainings- SOAR For Health Care’ (or
9 any substantially similar successor training).

10 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each abortion serv-
11 ice provider shall complete the training provided
12 under subparagraph (A) on an annual basis and
13 prior to January 30 of each calendar year, and
14 certify such completion to the Director of the
15 Office on Trafficking in Persons of the Depart-
16 ment of Health and Human Services. The cer-
17 tification under this subparagraph shall include
18 the protocols that the abortion service provider
19 has in place to identify and assist victims of
20 trafficking.

21 “(C) PENALTY.—An abortion service pro-
22 vider who fails to comply with subparagraph
23 (B) shall be subject to a fine in an amount of
24 \$1,000 per day of noncompliance.

1 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this subsection may be construed to require a victim
3 of trafficking to self-report.

4 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

5 “(A) The term ‘abortion service provider’
6 means a person who—

7 “(i) performs an abortion and is li-
8 censed to practice medicine and surgery or
9 osteopathic medicine and surgery; or

10 “(ii) is otherwise legally authorized to
11 perform an abortion.

12 “(B) The term ‘victim of trafficking’ has
13 the meaning given to such term in section 103
14 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
15 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).”.